

Family TableTalk

Conversation 15

Don't Be Scared of the Dark!

read

1 Timothy 1:12-17

think

Wait? Did Paul really just claim to be the worst of all sinners? He didn't really mean that, did he? This is the *Apostle Paul*—the one who wrote almost half of the books of the New Testament (13 out of 27!). Surely, he was exaggerating to sound humble.

Or was he?

Earlier in his ministry, he admits to being the “least of the apostles” (1 Corinthians 15:9). Later he claimed to be the least of all God's people (Ephesians 3:8). And now, he believes himself to be the worst of sinners? But as we get more mature in our faith, aren't we supposed to grow *more* holy, not less?

What Paul is bringing to light is that as God works in our life to grow us, He is at the same time revealing how sinful we really are. When you are playing outside at night, it doesn't seem dark. Once you get inside and look out the window, it is only then that you discover how truly dark it was. So, it is with our faith. The more light that comes into our life, the more clearly we then see the darkness.

The response to seeing ourselves as bigger sinners than we initially thought is to see a bigger need for Christ and His forgiveness. The more we see our sin, the more we need Him, and the more we will run to Him for forgiveness. The more we then experience His forgiveness, the more holy we will become!

apply

- Has it been your experience that you are getting worse as a Christian over time and not better?
- What are some ways that you also see God working in your life?
- Evaluate this Jack Miller quote: “Cheer up! You're a worse sinner than you ever dared imagine, and you're more loved than you ever dared hope.”

pray

Lord, thank you that you are working in our lives—both to make us more like Jesus AND to show us more of our sin. Help us when we are confronted with our sin to run to Jesus whose love and forgiveness is far greater than we can ever fathom.

by **Brett Wirebaugh**

Brett Wirebaugh is the Associate Pastor for Youth and Families at Harvest Presbyterian Church in Medina, Ohio. He is also the author of a young adult Christian novel titled *Half-Tail Rising*.

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